(c) No, Sir.

(d) The construction work could not be started due to non-transfer of the proposed land in favour of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) by the State Government. The commencement of construction work depends on transfer of the land free of all encumbrances, by the State Government in favour of NVS.

Role of private sector in elementary education

973. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the role of private and corporate sectors in the fields of elementary education and in providing Mid-Day-Meals;

(b) if so, what have been the achievements; and

(c) what kind of public-private partnership Government envisages in rural area and what is the reaction of cardboards?

THE MINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) In the report of the PPP Sub-Group on social sector brought out by the Planning Commission in 2004, a reference has been made about Public-Private Partnership in Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Computer Aided Learning at Elementary Level under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The guidelines of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme provide for association of Voluntary Organisations who undertake to supply cooked mid-day meal and provide resource support to the programme through trainng and capacity building, monitoring & evaluation and research. Selection, identification of Voluntary Organizations for the above activities is done by implementing agency of scheme, *i.e.* State* Governments/UT administrations. No assessment has been made of the implementation of the programme through these organizations. A component of Computer Aided Learning (CAL) operated through PPP is funded under SSA. Eighty One (81) private organizations are associated with CAL during the current year. No assessment of the role of private sector in elementary education has been undertaken under SSA.

Standardization and homogenization of **curriculum**

974. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to standardize and homogenize the curriculum across all Indian universities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what academic benefits are likely to accrue thereby; and

(c) whether this would undermine the very integrity of the concept of universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A Committee has been constituted by the University Grants Commission to suggest a frame-work that would help in ensuring and enhancing the quality and relevance of curriculum. There is no proposal for introduction of any uniform curriculum in respective subjects or disciplines. The universities being autonomous institutions, have the freedom of designing their own curriculum. The introduction of new courses by universities is a regular feature in higher education system.

Mandatory approval of AICTE and UGC

t975. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the educational institutions, providing technical and professional education are required to take approval of All India Council of Technical Education and University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms stipulated for providing such approval;

(d) the provisions for action against the institutions not seeking the said approval; and

(e) the number of institutions against which action has been taken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per Section 10(k) of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, 1987, the Council is empowered to grant approval for starting new technical institutions.

(c) The AICTE has prescribed norms for granting approval for starting new technical institutions and introduction of new courses through Regulations published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary dated 14.09.2006.

(d) and (e) AICTE, from time to time publishes for general information, the names of technical institutions functioning without its approval, and has placed a list of 209 unapproved institutions on its website (www.aicte.ernet.in)
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Literacy in Rajasthan

976. DR.GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA
SHRI LALITKISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literacy among children below fourteen years in Rajasthan, and how it compares with other States and all India average and whether it is lower in SCs/STs/OBCs, particularly girls;

(b) the school dropout rate in Rajasthan in primary, secondary and senior secondary level and whether it is lower in rural area, girls, SCs, STs and OBCs; and

. (c) the steps Government are contemplating to improve the above scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE •DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Based on the Selected Educational Statistics 2004-05, against the all India Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 93.54% at the elementary stage (Classes I to VIII, ages 6-14), the GER of Rajasthan is 102.67%. In Rajasthan, GER for SC students is 105.16% and is 96.33% for ST students as against national average of 98.79% and 102.36% respectively. For SC girls, the GER is 95.65% against national average of 90.29% and for ST girls it is 86.10% against national average of 95.82%. The

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.